

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS
IN KENTUCKY

PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE DIVISION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
SERVICES STATE ADVISORY PANEL

April 22, 1993

Presented By:

Sharon Bensinger, Executive Director
Visually Impaired Preschool Services

Linda Smith, Task Force Chairperson
Outreach Services, Kentucky School for the Blind

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

LISTING OF MEMBERS

Judy Adams, Director
West Kentucky Educational Cooperative Diagnostic
Center
Special Education Building
Murray State University
Murray, KY 42071
(502) 762-6965 FAX: 502-762-2485

Norman Balot
VIPS Advisory Board Representative
1935 Manor House
Louisville, KY 40220
(502) 458-0498

Sharon Bensinger, Executive Director
Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)
1215 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 636-3207 FAX: 502-636-0024

Barbara Bunuan, Outreach Director
Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-3153
(502) 897-1583 FAX: same #

Hilda Caton, Ed.D., Research Scientist and Director of
The Braille Research Center
American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 895-2405 FAX: 502-895-1509

Patty Dilg, Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 897-1583 FAX: same #

Will Evans, Director
Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-3153
(502) 897-1583 FAX: same #

Roger Farmer
2933 Chippewa Drive
Owensboro, KY 42301
(502) 926-1541

Betsy Flener, Ed.D., Teacher and Consultant
Warren County School System
Drakes Creek Middle School
704 Cypress Wood
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(502) 843-0165 FAX: 502-781-6727
(Attention: Mark Flener)

Cathy Johnson, Outreach Consultant
Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-3153
(502) 897-1583 FAX: same #

Preston Lewis, Branch Manager
Office of Special Instructional Services
Kentucky Department of Education
8th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4970 FAX: 502-564-6771

Gail Lincoln, Executive Director
Kentucky Disabilities Coalition
1375 Clearfork North
Morehead, KY 40351-9514
(606) 784-7580

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
LISTING OF MEMBERS continued

Mary Nelle McLennan, Director
Department of Educational and Advisory Services
American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 895-2405 FAX: 502-895-1509

Sheri Moore, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of
Exceptional and Remedial Education
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
(502) 588-6421 FAX: 502-588-0726

Jan Moseley, Vision Specialist
Jefferson County Schools
Vanhoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
P.O. Box 34020
Louisville, KY 40232-4020
(502) 473-3125 FAX: 502-473-8976

Gary Mudd, Director of Public Relations
American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 895-2405 FAX: 502-895-1509

Ed Rademaker, Director of Client Services
Kentucky Department for the Blind
427 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4754 FAX: 502-564-3976

Marianne Riggio, National Education Consultant
Hilton/Perkins Program
Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 924-3434 FAX: 617-926-2027

Priscilla Rogers, Director
Kentucky Department for the Blind
427 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4754 FAX: 502-564-3976

Linda Smith, PREVIEW Coordinator
(Task Force Chairperson)
Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 897-1583 FAX: same #

Wanda Vice, Consultant for Kentucky Valley
Educational Cooperative
Route 1 Box 166
Hillsboro, KY 41049
(606) 876-2206 FAX: 606-436-2742 (Hazard
City)

Patty Wheatley, Orientation and Mobility Specialist
1012 Reilus Court
Lexington, KY 40517
(606) 281-0191

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS
IN KENTUCKY

F A C T S

*THE PREVALENCE OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN IN KY IS ONE-THIRD HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL INCIDENCE (BASED ON A STUDY BY THE KY DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND)

*A BRAILLE BILL BECAME LAW IN KENTUCKY IN 1992

*IN 1992-93, AT LEAST 104 LEA'S HAVE REQUESTED MATERIALS FROM THE KIMRC

*ONLY 27 LEA'S ARE PROVIDING SERVICES TO BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS THROUGH CERTIFIED TEACHERS OF THE BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED (INCLUDING PART-TIME AND EMERGENCY CERTIFIED)

*IN 1991, THERE WERE 33 VI CHILDREN REGISTERED THROUGH THE KIMRC FROM ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THERE IS NO VI TEACHER

*THERE ARE CURRENTLY ONLY 5 CERTIFIED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS EMPLOYED ACROSS THE STATE--2 IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, 2 AT KSB, AND 1 IN FAYETTE COUNTY

*THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO KNOWN POSITIONS ADVERTISED FOR O&M IN LEA'S

*THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE O&M REPORT INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED BY AN O & M TASK FORCE IN 1991 WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED

NUMBER OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS
1992-93 SCHOOL YEAR

TOTAL KIMRC REGISTRATION	1356
(birth - 21 years)	

birth - 2 years	-117
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TOTAL SCHOOL AGE	1239
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LEA CHILD COUNT (3 - 21 years)

IDEA	364
CHAPTER I	17
VISION AS SECONDARY DISABILITY	422

TOTAL LEA REPORT OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES	803
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TOTAL NUMBER OF VI TEACHERS IN LEA'S (7 of these are emergency certified)	55*
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*Includes:

26 teachers in Jefferson County	26
5 teachers in Fayette County	5

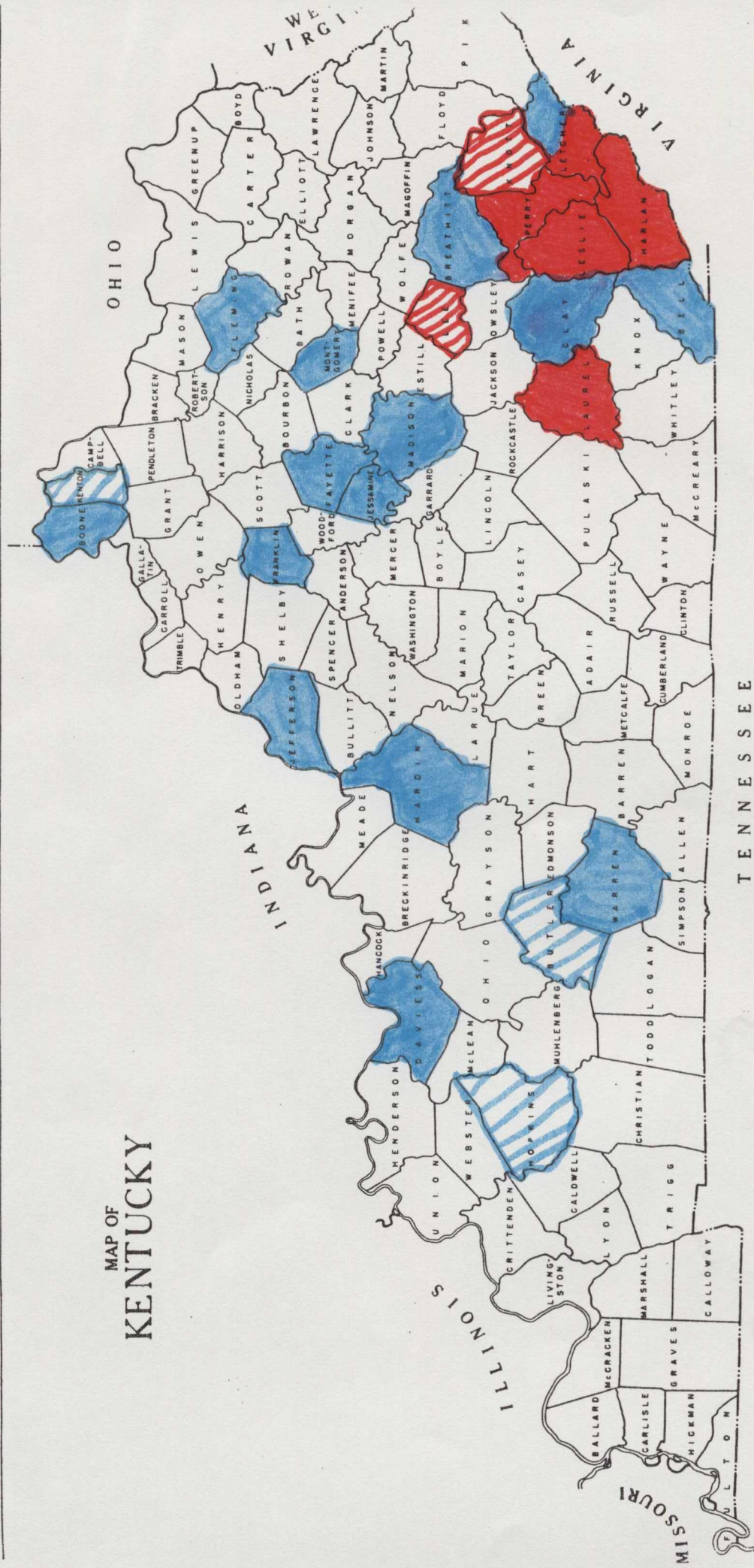
TEACHERS OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Fully certified, full-time

Emergency certified, part-time

Fully certified, part-time

Emergency certified, contracted through KY-Valley Coop



176 total school districts, 120 county, 56 independent

16 districts, including 3 independent, have full-time, fully certified teachers

5 districts full-time, emergency certified

3 districts part-time, fully certified

3 districts, including 1 independent, share 2 emergency certified teachers through KY-Valley Coop

27 Total districts with some type of services for Visually Impaired students

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL
IMPAIRMENTS WHO LIVE IN KENTUCKY

P R E L I M I N A R Y R E P O R T
OF S E R V I C E G A P S

CHILD FIND

- no on-going, systematic method of data collection
- need for birth registry for blind/VI
- lack of public awareness

CASE MANAGEMENT

- no clear point of entry into system
- no on-going way of tracking students and families to determine on-going priorities and needs
- no effective way to follow students once they have left school

TEACHER TRAINING

- no training for orientation and mobility specialists
- no on-going teacher training in regional areas
- limited access for training in rural areas

TEACHER SUPPORT

- no statewide coordinated support system for VI teachers
- lack of administrative support at local level
- lack of systematic way to update skills and best practices
- lack of model programs

PARENT SUPPORT

- lack of advocacy for family/child needs
- no central information/referral source
- full range of program options not available for parents

ANCILLARY SERVICES (O&M, Assessment, Low Vision, Assistive
Technology)

- ancillary service skills are not always assessed
- often not available or accessible

TASK FORCE ON SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL
IMPAIRMENTS WHO LIVE IN KENTUCKY

Preliminary Recommendations

Presented to Division of Exceptional Children Services
State Advisory Panel

April 22, 1993

The Task Force recommends the following immediate action steps be taken on behalf of blind and visually impaired children and their families:

1. That a position for State Coordinator of Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children be established
2. Copies of the Orientation & Mobility (O & M) Task Force Report be disseminated to local school districts
3. Strategies for implementing the recommendations of the O&M Task Force be developed
4. An 800 number for information and referral of services for blind and visually impaired be established
5. More access to teacher training leading to VI certification be available across the state

FURTHER AND MORE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER JUNE 30, 1993.